Frequently Asked Questions

What is the e-Child Care Project?

The e-Child Care project is a collaborative effort between DSHS Division of Child Care and Early Learning, the Community Services Division, and the Information Technology Division to improve the operations of the child care subsidy program, Working Connections Child Care, and licensing services delivered through the department.

The e-Child Care project will use today's advanced technologies to make it easier for families and child care providers to do business with the department.

The project will develop an interactive Internet component so parents may easily apply for WCCC services and providers may quickly verify the payment status of children in their care.

The Case Management component will streamline the management of over 36,000 subsidy records and 10,000 licensing records ensuring the delivery of quality child care services to families and to the providers.

The attendance keeping and payment components will simplify reporting requirements for providers and make payments that accurately reflect the care provided by using an automated approach.

Why is the e-Child Care project happening now?

The Division of Child Care and Early Learning provides child care subsidy services to over 70,000 children each month and licensing services to over 10,000 child care providers each year. Management of these on going services is no easy task. Reduced resources, new technology opportunities, and increasing public demand make this the ideal time to begin e-Child Care.

When will the e-Child Care project be completed?

The e-Child Care project is a multi-year project that is following the state guidelines for the approval and acquisition of information technology products. The project will perform a feasibility study that contains information about the design of components of e-Child Care and the work necessary to achieve those components. The project will also develop an investment plan and, after final approval, a request for information proposal (RFP) to acquire the defined goods and services for e-Child Care.

The Request for Proposal process will be completed by the end of Winter 2005. Development and implementation of the system known as e-Child Care is expected to begin in the Spring of 2005.